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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/539,630

06/17/2005

Yuichi Hikichi

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07/02/2008

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EXAMINER

ZARA, JANE J

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1635

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/539,630	Applicant(s) HIKICHI ET AL.	
	Examiner Jane Zara	Art Unit 1635	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 March 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 3,5,7-17 and 19-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 5,7-17 and 20-27 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 3,19,28 and 30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 29 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>Seq. Alignment data</u> |

DETAILED ACTION

This Office action is in response to the communication filed 3-31-08.

Claims 3, 5, 7-17, 19-30 are pending in the instant application.

Election/Restrictions

This application contains claims 5, 7-17, and 20-27, drawn to an invention nonelected with traverse in the reply filed on 10-9-07. A complete reply to the final rejection must include cancellation of nonelected claims or other appropriate action (37 CFR 1.144) See MPEP § 821.01.

Response to Arguments and Amendments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 3, 19 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection set forth below.

Withdrawn Rejections

Any rejections not repeated in this Office action are hereby withdrawn.

New Rejections/ Rejections Necessitated by Amendment

Claim Objections

Claim 30 is objected to because of the following informalities: It appears that the word "including" (line 1, claim 30) has been used instead of the word --inducing--.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102/103

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 3, 19, 28 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Strausberg et al (Medline=22388257) (December 1, 2001).

Strausberg et al teach an antisense polynucleotide comprising the sequence complementary to a base sequence of a polynucleotide encoding the amino acid

Art Unit: 1635

sequence of SEQ ID NO. 1 (See Accession Q96F16_ HUMAN, attached Sequence Alignment Data). The burden of establishing whether the prior art compound has the function of inducing apoptosis as claimed falls to applicant. See (In re Best, 562 F.2d 1252, 1255, 195 USPQ 430, 433-434 (CCPA 1977): "Where, as here, the claimed and prior art products are identical or substantially identical, or are produced by identical or substantially identical processes, the PTO can require an applicant to prove that the prior art products do not necessarily or inherently possess the characteristics of his claimed product... Whether the rejection is based on 'inherency' under 35 USC 102, on 'prima facie obviousness' under 35 USC 103, jointly or alternatively, the burden of proof is the same, and its fairness is evidenced by the PTO's inability to manufacture products or to obtain and compare prior art products." [footnote omitted] See also MPEP 2112: "[T]he PTO can require an applicant to prove that the prior art products do not necessarily or inherently possess the characteristics of his [her] claimed product." The MPEP at 2112 citing In re Fitzgerald 205 USPQ 594, 596 (CCPA 1980), quoting In re Best 195 USPQ 430 as per above. Therefore, absent evidence to the contrary, since the compound disclosed by Strausberg et al meets all of the structural limitations of the instantly claimed invention, it would necessarily be presumed to have the functionality claimed, of inducing apoptosis.

Therefore, absent evidence to the contrary, claims 3, 19, 28 and 30 are anticipated by or, in the alternative, obvious over Strausberg et al.

Claims 3 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Matson et al (USPN 5,981,185).

Matson et al (USPN 5,981,185) teach an antisense polynucleotide comprising part of a base sequence complementary to a base sequence of a polynucleotide encoding the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO. 1 (see SEQ ID No. 44 of USPN 5,981,185). The burden of establishing whether the prior art compound has the function of inducing apoptosis as claimed falls to applicant. See (In re Best, 562 F.2d 1252, 1255, 195 USPQ 430, 433-434 (CCPA 1977): "Where, as here, the claimed and prior art products are identical or substantially identical, or are produced by identical or substantially identical processes, the PTO can require an applicant to prove that the prior art products do not necessarily or inherently possess the characteristics of his claimed product... Whether the rejection is based on 'inherency' under 35 USC 102, on 'prima facie obviousness' under 35 USC 103, jointly or alternatively, the burden of proof is the same, and its fairness is evidenced by the PTO's inability to manufacture products or to obtain and compare prior art products." [footnote omitted] See also MPEP 2112: "[T]he PTO can require an applicant to prove that the prior art products do not necessarily or inherently possess the characteristics of his [her] claimed product." The MPEP at 2112 citing In re Fitzgerald 205 USPQ 594, 596 (CCPA 1980), quoting In re Best 195 USPQ 430 as per above. Therefore, absent evidence to the contrary, since the compound disclosed by Matson et al meets all of the structural limitations of the

Art Unit: 1635

instantly claimed invention, it would necessarily be presumed to have the functionality claimed, of inducing apoptosis.

Therefore, absent evidence to the contrary, claims 3 and 19 are anticipated by or, in the alternative, obvious over Matson et al.

Claims 3 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Mittman et al (USPN 6,821,724).

Mittman et al (USPN 6,821,724) teach antisense polynucleotides comprising part of a base sequence complementary to a base sequence of a polynucleotide encoding the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO. 1. (see, *e.g.*, SEQ ID NOs. 73,224 and 73,225, col. 1-2, and claims 1 and 77 of USPN 6,821,724). The burden of establishing whether the prior art compound has the function of inducing apoptosis as claimed falls to applicant. See (*In re Best*, 562 F.2d 1252, 1255, 195 USPQ 430, 433-434 (CCPA 1977): "Where, as here, the claimed and prior art products are identical or substantially identical, or are produced by identical or substantially identical processes, the PTO can require an applicant to prove that the prior art products do not necessarily or inherently possess the characteristics of his claimed product... Whether the rejection is based on 'inherency' under 35 USC 102, on 'prima facie obviousness' under 35 USC 103, jointly or alternatively, the burden of proof is the same, and its fairness is evidenced by the PTO's inability to manufacture products or to obtain and compare prior art products." [footnote omitted] See also MPEP 2112: "[T]he PTO can require an applicant to prove

Art Unit: 1635

that the prior art products do not necessarily or inherently possess the characteristics of his [her] claimed product." The MPEP at 2112 citing *In re Fitzgerald* 205 USPQ 594, 596 (CCPA 1980), quoting *In re Best* 195 USPQ 430 as per above. Therefore, absent evidence to the contrary, since the compounds disclosed by Mittman et al meet all of the structural limitations of the instantly claimed invention, they would necessarily be presumed to have the functionality claimed, of inducing apoptosis.

Therefore, absent evidence to the contrary, claims 3 and 19 are anticipated by or, in the alternative, obvious over Mittman et al.

Allowable Subject Matter

SEQ ID NOs. 9, 11 and 12 appear free of the prior art searched and of record.

Conclusion

Certain papers related to this application may be submitted to Art Unit 1635 by facsimile transmission. The faxing of such papers must conform with the notices published in the Official Gazette, 1156 OG 61 (November 16, 1993) and 1157 OG 94 (December 28, 1993) (see 37 C.F.R. ' 1.6(d)). The official fax telephone number for the Group is 571-273-8300. NOTE: If Applicant does submit a paper by fax, the original signed copy should be retained by applicant or applicant's representative. NO DUPLICATE COPIES SHOULD BE SUBMITTED so as to avoid the processing of duplicate papers in the Office.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jane Zara whose telephone number is (571) 272-0765.

Art Unit: 1635

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Douglas Schultz, can be reached on (571) 272-0763. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Jane Zara
6-30-08

/Jane Zara/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1635